A BEAUTIFUL SPRING ON OUR NEW CAMPUS

Our magnificent new campus came to life this spring thanks to the dedication and green thumbs of Hortulus, the Greenwich Garden Club and members of our Green Team.

In the Tavern Garden, colorful bulbs lined the walkway between the new museum building and the 1805 Storehouse, site of our administrative offices. Many thanks to the Greenwich Garden Club who made this lovely new landscape possible for all visitors to enjoy.

NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH WATSON’S CATERING AND EVENTS

We are excited to announce an exclusive partnership with Watson’s Catering and Events for all of our special events at The Barn & Gardens at Greenwich Historical Society. Watson’s is a Greenwich neighbor and has been in business for more than 26 years. Our newly transformed, unique and versatile spaces, coupled with Watson’s elevated food and supremely executed service, are the perfect combination.

Please think of us when planning your birthday parties, rehearsal dinners, weddings, corporate events and not-for-profit fundraisers.

Patron, Benefactor or Leadership Circle level who books a party at The Barns & Gardens at Greenwich Historical Society. Also, the first two weddings booked on our campus under this new partnership will receive 50 percent off the site rental fee!

For more information, contact Michele Couture at the Greenwich Historical Society at 203-869-6899, Ext. 15 or mcouture@greenwichhistory.org; or contact Watson’s directly at 203-532-0132 or watsonscatering.com.
DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

Thank you for going above and beyond with your involvement in the Greenwich Historical Society! Not only are you supporting us with contributions; you are passionate about our work and are proud to identify with us.

Since the opening of our reimagined campus in October, we have been pleased to offer successful events, innovative programming, volunteer opportunities and community-building activities. Please let us know how we’re doing!

If you know of anyone who might like to become a member, or if you are not a member and are interested in joining, please contact Membership Manager Laura Kelly at 203-869-6899, Ext. 14 or lkelly@greenwichhistory.org, complete and mail the business return envelope included in this newsletter, or sign up at greenwichhistory.org.

We look forward to seeing you at our next event, or program, at our café, in our Museum Store or simply exploring our beautiful gardens. Thank you again for your continued involvement in the Greenwich Historical Society.

Debra Mecky, PhD
Executive Director & CEO
Greenwich Historical Society

GREENWICH HISTORIC TRUST
SPRING EVENT

Left to right: Margaret Bragg, Bea Crumbine, Desmond Fitzgerald, James Daras, Karen Coxe and Natalie Pray

On May 21, Mary Quick and Jim Daras welcomed more than 70 longtime Greenwich Historical Society supporters and friends to their home for a reception to recognize the significant impact their generosity has on the depth and breadth of programming, exhibits, events and partnerships that are made possible through their philanthropy. Greenwich Historical Society is grateful to First Republic Bank for sponsoring this Greenwich Historic Trust event and to event chairs Robert Getz, Anne Ogilvy and Deborah Schmidt Robinson.

NEW TRUSTEES

Greenwich Historical Society is honored to welcome three accomplished individuals to our Board of Trustees.

HEATHER GEORGES
A full-time mother of three, Heather Hoyt Georges is the former owner and operator of Hoyt-Levasseur LLC, an interior decorating firm formerly in Manhattan. She holds a BA from Wheaton College and an MA from the New School of Social Research/The Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum.

Georges is a member of the Association of the Board of the Metropolitan Opera and is currently also involved with the New York City Ballet, Greenwich Land Trust, Family Centers and Greenwich Country Day School. In addition, she serves on the Decorating Committee of the Wianno Club in Osterville, MA.

MICHAEL KOVNER
A longtime patron of the Greenwich Historical Society, Michael Kovner is a real estate broker at Brown, Harris, Stevens in New York City and an active member of the Real Estate Board of New York. He is also an instructor whose course, “A History of Residential Real Estate in Manhattan,” is accredited by the State of New York. Kovner was educated at Rye Country Day School, Trinity-Pawling School and Lafayette College, and he did postgraduate work at Georgetown University’s Foreign Service School and at the University of Dijon in Dijon, France.

A decorated U.S. Army Captain (retired), Kovner has long been an advocate for veterans. A supporter of the arts and historic preservation, he is a board member or trustee of institutions including the Bruce Museum, Jay Heritage Center and Nantucket Preservation Trust. He splits his time among homes in Manhattan, Greenwich, Palm Beach and Nantucket.

DMITRI WRIGHT
An artist whose work focuses on the preservation and progress of Impressionism, Dmitri Wright is Greenwich Historical Society’s artist-in-residence and a valued instructor at our Art and History Camp. He is also the Master Artist/Instructor for Weir Farm National Historic Site and an instructor at Silvermine Art School. Wright’s work is included in hundreds of collections and has been exhibited at the Brooklyn Museum, National Arts Club and Mattatuck Museum, among others.

Wright studied at Cooper Union and Brooklyn Museum Art School and was valedictorian at the Newark School of Fine & Industrial Arts. His artistic lineage can be traced to an original American Impressionist. One of Wright’s mentors, Samuel Brecher, studied under Charles W. Hawthorne, who was a student of William Merritt Chase.
In the 2018–2019 school year, Greenwich Historical Society educators led 280 Hamilton Avenue School students in grades 1 to 5 in unique grade-specific programs designed to supplement social studies and art curricula standards.

Inspired by their visits to Bush-Holley House, 56 third graders made quilt panels that were combined into a quilt. Forty-seven fourth grade students worked with professional painter Ilse Gordon to create their own self-portrait after studying those in Bush-Holley House. Twelve fifth grade students participated in an after-school program to become student docents. The student-created quilt and self-portraits were displayed for students, their families and teachers at a May reception during which the student docents led tours of Bush-Holley House.

This partnership aims to break down barriers between students and their families to visiting cultural institutions. By the time students graduate they should feel a sense of ownership and an understanding that they are contributing to the story of Greenwich. This program is made possible by an educational endowment for Title I school programming.

If you’d like to help us expand this program to additional Title I schools in Greenwich, please contact Development Director Mary K. Vinton at 203-869-6899, Ext. 13 or mvinton@greenwichhistory.org.

ART AND HISTORY CAMP BEGINS
Monday, July 8
There are limited spaces still available for our unique and highly interactive Art and History Camp for kids in grades 2–8, which begins July 8. Campers will learn about our town’s fascinating history and create Impressionist art and crafts projects; all weeks include STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) activities. July 8–19 is for grades 5–8; July 22–August 2 is for grades 2–4.

FOUNDERS’ DAY
Thursday, July 18; 10:00 am
Innis Arden Cottage at Greenwich Point Park
Free
Celebrate the founding of Greenwich with a reading of the original July 18, 1640 deed and announcement of the winners of This Place Matters Photo Contest. Following the program, guests will be able to tour the Feake-Ferris House, the oldest house in Greenwich and one of the oldest in America, via shuttles and tours organized by the Greenwich Point Conservancy. The entire July 18 Founders’ Day event is free of charge but reservations are required.

ANTANEOUS ALTAMIRANO
The Armstrong family enjoying refreshments in the Artists’ Café.

LIGHT BITES IN THE ARTISTS’ CAFÉ
We are pleased to announce a partnership with Kevin Allmashy, executive chef and owner of Executive Corner Deli in Byram, to provide healthy, light fare for our Artists’ Café. Catering locally since 2005, Executive Corner Deli also provides food services for Greenwich Library and Byram Pool. Fresh sandwiches are made with Metro Deli cold cuts, which are all natural, and tempting baked items entice café visitors.

Open daily, the Artists’ Café’s hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4:00 pm.
The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation presented an Award of Merit to the Greenwich Historical Society in April in recognition of how our newly reimagined campus furthers our mission and revitalizes an important place in the history of American Impressionism. The awards program honors outstanding achievement in protecting and nourishing Connecticut’s significant buildings, landscapes and communities, and the individuals and organizations whose work makes historic places shine and serve as an inspiration for others.

We are grateful to the Community Development Block Grant Committee (CDBG) and to Greenwich First Selectman Peter Tesei for approving $63,686 of federal funds to make our campus more accessible to people of all abilities. The funds will be used to reconstruct the ADA-compliant walkway that links the Vanderbilt Education Center to the Bush-Holley House and to the new Museum and Archives building; and also to add a required railing and lighting for visitors to this National Historic Landmark site. The completion of the project fulfills our goals—which began with the installation of an elevator funded by the CDBG—to make the site, tours and programs of the Greenwich Historical Society accessible to all. The work will begin in late summer and will be carried out in conjunction with the replacement of the grape arbor, which is funded by a generous grant from Hortulus.